



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 24, 1985

Docket No. 50-252

Dr. David M. Woodall  
Chief Reactor Supervisor  
Nuclear Engineering Department  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Dear Dr. Woodall:

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-102

This letter is to remind you that the Operating License No. R-102, for the University of New Mexico Research Reactor is scheduled to expire on July 8, 1986, and to provide you guidance for preparing your application for a renewal of the license. Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.109) allows continued operation under your current license until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acts on an application for renewal, provided the application is received at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of your current license.

The NRC considers the renewal of a non-power reactor operating license to be equivalent to reissuing the license. Therefore, renewal is not merely a routine administrative step, but involves in-depth reviews of all documentation related to the facility, an on-site review, and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of a notice of your request that provides the opportunity for public participation, as well as a notice of the results of our review of your application.

Your renewal application should address the requirements in 10 CFR Parts 50, 51, 55, and 73, and should demonstrate that the reactor can continue to be operated safely and without adverse environmental impact. For the review of your renewal application, the NRC staff will apply the guidance contained in the Division 2 Regulatory Guides for Research Reactors and the industry standards in the ANS-15 Series.

In order for us to perform an adequate review, you are requested to include, as part of your application, all of the following documentation, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.33 and 50.34:

1. Updated or Revised Safety Analysis Report (SAR)

A complete revised and updated edition of your Safety Analysis Report and Technical Specifications are required to be submitted with your renewal application. The SAR should include information that describes the facility and all changes made during the license period; the design bases and limits on its operation; and a safety analysis of the structures, components and systems to ensure that they will be able to continue to perform their intended functions. Potential and reasonable

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accident scenarios and their consequences should be analyzed using the best current input data and computational techniques, and should rely, wherever possible, on facility operating experience.

Furthermore, the SAR should include updated information and analyses on demography, meteorology, geology, seismology and other natural and unnatural phenomena.

2. Financial Qualifications to Continue Operation (10 CFR 50.33(f))

This information must show that there is reasonable assurance that you will be able to obtain the funds necessary to cover estimated operating costs for the period of the requested license renewal plus the estimated costs of permanently shutting down the facility and either decommissioning it or maintaining it in a safe condition. To facilitate our review, we request that the following information be provided, appropriately certified:

- a. The most recently published annual financial statement of the University. Indicate the source of funds utilized to cover costs of operation of the reactor facility,
- b. The estimated annual cost to operate the reactor for the requested period of renewal, the underlying assumptions and bases of the estimate, and a certification that future budgets will include these funds,
- c. The estimated costs of eventually shutting down the reactor and safely disposing of it, a listing of what is included in these costs, the assumptions underlying these estimated costs, the type of shutdown contemplated, and the source of funds to cover these costs.

3. Environmental Report (10 CFR Part 51)

Your Environmental Report (ER) should include sufficient operational data, analyses and discussions to provide a substantial basis for NRC to develop its Environmental Assessment (see enclosure for an example).

4. Technical Specifications

The content and format for Technical Specifications should be in conformance with ANSI/ANS 15.1-1982, "The Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors." Any substantive changes to the current technical specifications should be proposed at the time of the license renewal application so they can be evaluated during the review. Note that in following the ANSI/ANS 15.1-1982 format, bases must be included to support all "specifications."

5. Operator Requalification Program (10 CFR 50.54 (i-1) and 10 CFR Part 55, Appendix A)

A copy of your current and implemented operator requalification program must be submitted to ensure that it is reviewed with your renewal application and meets current NRC requirements for non-power reactors (guidance contained in ANS 15.4-1978).

6. Emergency Plan (10 CFR 50.54(q) and (r) and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E)

You submitted a revised Emergency Plan on March 11, 1985. The staff reviewed and approved the plan on June 11, 1985 and requested that you complete full implementation within 120 days from June 11, 1985. The approved plan is effective for your license renewal; resubmittal is not needed unless you desire to make any change.

7. Physical Security Plan (10 CFR 73.67)

You need to submit a copy of your current Physical Security Plan as part of your license renewal application. The staff will review it against the current NRC regulations, and will notify you if further information or modification is needed.

8. Filing of Application

The requirements for submitting your renewal application and all other formal documentation relating to your license with respect to addressee, notarization, signatory and number of copies are defined in NRR Generic Letter No. 84-18, "Filing of Applications for Licenses and Amendments," from Darrell G. Eisenhut to All Non-Power Reactor Licensees, dated July 6, 1984. Please follow the guidance in this letter.

For your further guidance in preparing the proper information to be included in your license renewal application, we are enclosing a copy of the license renewal package recently issued for Manhattan College, which is a 0.1W facility. This includes the staff's Safety Evaluation Report, Environmental Assessment and the Technical Specifications for the facility. These documents will indicate to you the type of information we need even for very low power reactors such as yours. Upon completion of the technical and safety reviews and a favorable evaluation of your facility, similar documents will be issued in conjunction with renewal of your reactor operating license. We emphasize that these enclosures were developed and issued by the staff and are provided as examples of the types of findings we must make. Your documentation must provide the technical and descriptive information that will support our issuance of similar evaluations.

Dr. David M. Woodall

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If you have any further questions or comments, please contact John Dosa, our new Licensing Project Manager for your facility, at (301) 492-9829.

Sincerely,

*Cecil O. Thomas*

Cecil Thomas, Chief  
Standardization and Special Projects  
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:  
As stated

University of New Mexico

Docket No. 50-252

cc w/o enclosure:

City Manager  
City of Albuquerque  
City Hall  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
State Capitol  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

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Standardization and Special Projects  
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:  
As stated

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